

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1664

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, ELAB, AR

SUBJ: LABOR CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT: SITREP NO. 2

REF: BA 4337

1. RAIN HAS GIVEN WAY TO SUNSHINE AND CROWD IN PLAZA HAS NOW GROWN TO 100 THOUSAND ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL POLICE ESTIMATES. SOME NEWS SOURCES PLACE IT HIGHER. WHATEVER THE PRECISE NUMBER, PLAZA IS FULL. KANDELL OF NYT SAYS HE HAS COUNTED SIX SEPARATE CHANGED SLOGANS DEMANDING OUSTER OF LOPEZ REGA AND RODRIGO.

2. MRS. PERON STILL IN EMERGENCY SESSION WITH CABINET AND HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT SHE HAS REQUESTED LABOR MINISTER TO CONVOKE MEETING WITH CGT AT OLIVOS THIS EVENING. THIS IS OBVIOUS EFFORT TO GET CROWD TO DISPERSE, THUS DAMPENING TENSIONS BEFORE SHE FACES LABOR LEADERS. LATTER APPARENTLY HAVE ACCEPTED HER INVITATION AND MEETING WILL PROBABLY BEGIN ABOUT 1700. REPORTS FROM PLAZA, MEANWHILE, INDICATE LABOR LEADERS ARE URGING CROWD TO STAND FAST UNTIL MRS. PERON COMES TO THE BALCONY. SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SHE WILL DO SO, HOWEVER, AND CROWD MAY BEGIN TO DWINDLE DURING AFTERNOON. EVEN IF IT DOES, MOMENTUM OF DEMANDS MAY NOT. AS ONE OBSERVER PUT IT, CONFIDENTIAL

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"THERE NO DOUBT AS TO WHAT THIS CROWD WANTS AND IT WILL COME

BACK TOMORROW IF IT DOESN'T GET IT." ISSUE, IN OTHER WORDS,
WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DEFUSE. ONE UOM LEADER TOLD KANDELL
THIS MORNING: " THIS GOVERNMENT IS SINKING AND WE AREN'T GOING
TO GO DOWN WITH IT".

3. SURPRISINGLY, SOME MONTONERO AND JUVENTUD PERONISTA BANNERS
HAVE APPEARED IN WHAT HAD SEEMED AN ALL LABOR CROWD. THIS
PROBABLY SIMPLY MEANS THAT FORMER ARE TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF SITUATION, NOT THAT THEY HAVE REACHED ACCORD WITH
LABOR.
MONTLLOR

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